

News Release



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FIGHT ON LIVED UP TO NAME IN SPENDTHRIFT JUVENILE STALLION STAKES; PREVAILS IN FIVE-HORSE PHOTO AS OWNER HUGHES PRESENTS TROPHY TO SELF

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017) – **Fight On** lived up to his name as the 2-year-old son of Into Mischief prevailed in a five-horse photo to win the second running of the \$200,000 Spendthrift Juvenile Stallion Stakes on Sunday’s opening day card at Churchill Downs’ 21-day Fall Meet.

The Spendthrift Juvenile Stallion Stakes was one of four stakes races on the 11-race card billed as “Stars of Tomorrow I.” Staged for the 13th straight year, each race was exclusively for 2-year-olds.

B. Wayne Hughes, the owner of Fight On and Lexington, Ky.-based **Spendthrift Farm** and the driving force behind the lucrative race exclusively for 2-year-old offspring sired by any active or non-active Spendthrift stallion, including all Spendthrift-owned stallions standing regionally in North America, presented to trophy to himself.

Ricardo Santana Jr., fresh off his first Keeneland riding title, rode the winner for Hall of Fame trainer **Steve Asmussen**.

“We are very surprised we won this race but we have a great trainer and jockey that helped us get there today,” Hughes said.

Fight On, the familiar phrase for Hughes’ alma mater, the **University of Southern California**, broke alertly and raced just off the right hip of pacesetter and 4-5 favorite **Ezmosh**, who led the field of eight juveniles through early fractions of :23.12 and :46.74.

Fight On narrowly took the lead while exiting the turn for home and inched clear in a long stretch drive to barely hold off **Captivating Moon** by a head. **Dream Baby Dream** was another neck back in third, **O’Malley’s March** was another head back in fourth and **John Tippmann** was another nose back in fifth. Ezmosh was another length back in sixth and was followed by **El Rubio** and **Just Be Frank**.

“We got a perfect trip today and when the horses got to him in deep stretch he fought hard to get the win,” Santana Jr. said.

Fight On, who collected his first career win in his fourth start, ran seven furlongs over a fast track in 1:24.87. The \$60,140 first prize increased the dark bay or brown colt’s earnings to \$80,340.

“He’s improved in every start and got a great trip today,” Asmussen said.

Fight On, out of the Elusive Quality mare Havenlass, was bred in Kentucky by **Haymarket Farm LLC**, who were awarded \$40,000 for the win.

Designed to benefit both racehorse owners and breeders, the \$200,000 purse was structured with a unique approach to award \$100,000 to the breeders of the top four placed horses, with the remaining \$100,000 allocated to the owners.

“The concept for these races incentivizes the breeders and people who buy our horses, and we are very happy to be able to win this,” Hughes said.

To his pari-mutuel backers, Fight On returned \$12.20, \$4.80 and \$4.40. Captivating Moon, ridden by **Jose Valdivia Jr.**, paid \$5.40 and \$4.40. **Dream Baby Dream**, under **Shaun Bridgmohan**, returned \$8.80.

DIRT NO PROBLEM FOR MONOMOY GIRL AS SHE ROLLS TO WINS RAGS TO RICHES

Monomoy Girl, perfect in two starts on turf, led every step of the way in her dirt debut Sunday to easily beat **Queen Mum** by 6 ½ lengths in the fifth running of the \$82,670 Rags to Riches Overnight Stakes on opening day of Churchill Downs' 21-day Fall Meet.

Ridden by **Florent Geroux** and trained by **Brad Cox**, Monomoy Girl broke alertly from post No. 6 in the field of 10 2-year-old fillies and comfortably rattled off quarter-mile splits of :22.73, :45.86 and 1:10.67 before stopping the teletimer in 1:36.29 for the one-mile race.

"I was a little surprised how relaxed she was on the lead," Geroux said. "She was flipping her ears back and forth on the backstretch. She's been training well over the dirt surface in the mornings and she proved she liked it in the afternoon."

The sharp effort will make Monomoy Girl a top contender in the \$200,000 Golden Rod (Grade II) over 1 1/16 miles at Churchill Downs on Saturday, Nov. 25 – her likely next start.

"It was a really big effort," Cox said. "She had two really nice breezes coming into the race. Originally she really struggled out of the gate in training and that's why we debuted her going long on the turf. She proved she handled the dirt today and Florent did a good job of getting to the front. The Golden Rod is the next logical spot for her as long as she comes out of the race in good shape."

Monomoy Girl, owned by **Sol Kumin's Monomoy Stables LLC** and **Michael Dubb**, earned \$48,950 for her connections. She paid \$8.80, \$5.40 and \$4.20 as the 3-1 second betting choice. Queen Mum, ridden by **Julien Leparoux**, returned \$6.20 and \$4.60. **Foxtrot Sally**, under **James Graham**, was another 1 ½ lengths back in third and paid \$6.40.

She's Pretty Lucky, 5-2 favorite **Saguaro Row**, **Dark Artist**, **Over Thinking**, **Firstmate**, **Grats Road** and **Missap** completed the order of finish.

Monomoy Girl, a Kentucky-bred daughter of Tapizar out of the Henny Hughes mare Drumette, improved her record to the 3-3-0-0—\$99,350. She previously won a pair of grass races at Indiana Downs and Churchill Downs, respectively.

SULTRY RALLIES UP RAIL TO NAIL MIA MISCHIEF IN SPENDTHRIFT FARM JUVENILE FILLY STALLION STAKES

Joseph W. Sutton's Sultry made a strong move on the turn along the inside rail under jockey **Corey Lanerie** and collared odds-on favorite **Mia Mischief** inside the final sixteenth of a mile to win Sunday's first running of the \$200,000 Spendthrift Farm Juvenile Filly Stallion Stakes at Churchill Downs by 1 ¼ lengths.

The lucrative race was exclusively for 2-year-old fillies that were sired by any active or non-active Spendthrift stallion, including all Spendthrift-owned stallions standing regionally in North America, presented to trophy to himself.

Sultry, a daughter of Malibu Moon trained by **Eddie Kenneally**, collected her first stakes win and third victory in five career starts. Previously, she won a first-level allowance over seven furlongs at Keeneland 17 days ago.

On Sunday, she clocked seven furlongs in 1:24.51 over a fast track, which was .36 faster than **Fight On**'s triumph in the Juvenile division.

Mia Mischief, the 2-5 favorite, led most of the way in :22.24, :45.65 and 1:11.29 with Sultry unhurried early and well back of the leader.

"Her running style is to come from behind so even though speed has been holding today we didn't want to change too much except get her into the race earlier," Lanerie said. "We had a perfect trip up the rail and with the early fractions the field came back to us a bit which helped. Eddie and his team have done a phenomenal job training her and she was ready to run today."

Kentucky-bred Sultry, out of the Giant's Causeway mare Viva Carina (ARG), banked \$60,140 for her owner and another \$40,000 to breeder **Three Chimneys Farm LLC**. Sultry now has a career record of 5-3-0-0—\$126,606.

Sultry, the 4-1 second betting choice, paid \$10.60, \$3.20 and \$2.20. Mia Mischief, ridden by **Ricardo Santana Jr.**, returned \$2.20 and \$2.10. **Aerial Assets** was another six lengths back in third under **Julien Leparoux** and paid \$4.20.

Breaking Beauty, **Foxy Mischief**, **Southampton Way**, **Cinema Doll** and **Bibbidibobbidi Boo** completed the order of finish. **Wendy Peffercorn** was scratched.

GOTTA GO EDGES LONE SAILOR IN THRILLING STREET SENSE

Robert Lothenbach's Gotta Go rallied from off the pace to just beat **Lone Sailor** by a head after a thrilling stretch battle in Sunday's fifth running of the \$83,001 Street Sense Overnight Stakes on opening day of Churchill Downs' 21-day Fall Meet.

The victory by Gotta Go gave trainer **Ian Wilkes** his second straight victory in the race. Last fall, **McCraken** won by 3 ¾ lengths and would go on to win a trio of graded stakes and finish eighth in the Kentucky Derby.

Ridden by Wilkes' son-in-law **Chris Landeros**, Gotta Go clocked one mile in 1:37.48 over a fast track.

"He beat a solid field of horses today," Wilkes said. "The runner-up just ran third in the (Grade I) Breeders' Futurity so he had a lot more experience than we did."

Twin Farms, Rubus and Breeders' Futurity runner-up **Bravazo** led the field of 10 2-year-olds into the turn after fractions of :22.55 and :45.66 as Lone Sailor raced in mid-pack and Gotta Go traveled a couple of lengths behind him. Bravazo took over midway around the turn in 1:11.76. Lone Sailor, from the inside, and Gotta Go, on the outside, drew even with an eighth of mile to run and battled stride-for-stride to the wire with Gotta Go prevailing in the final jump.

"I'm so proud of his effort today," Landeros said. "He's like a big kid and is still learning. When we were closing late in the stretch he saw the horse to the inside and really stuck his head down to get the win. The future seems very bright for him to be able to show that ability against a field like this."

Sent off at 8-1, Gotta Go paid \$18.60, \$9.80 and \$5.40. Lone Sailor, the 4-1 fourth betting choice, returned \$5.60 and \$3.20 under **Florent Geroux**. Bravazo, ridden by **Jon Court**, was another 3 ¼ lengths back in third and paid \$4.20 at odds of 7-1.

Renaissance Frolic, 5-2 favorite **Honorable Treasure**, **Ebben**, **Souper Smart**, **Netas**, **Rubus** and **Twin Farms** followed.

Gotta Go, who broke his maiden at Churchill Downs on Sept. 17 by 4 ¾ lengths in his second start, earned \$48,950 for his connections and improved his record to 3-2-0-0—\$80,510. He is a gray or roan Shanghai Bobby colt out of the Unbridled's Song mare Disturbingly Hot, and was bred in Kentucky by **Machmer Hall**.

"This horse is coming along slowly in his training and still learning a lot," Wilkes said. "If he comes out of this race fine we'll look to the Kentucky Jockey Club for his next start."

The \$200,000 Kentucky Jockey Club (Grade II), a 1 1/16-mile race for 2-year-olds at Churchill Downs, will be run on Saturday, Nov. 25. The Kentucky Jockey Club is part of the "Road to the Kentucky Derby" point series that will determine the field of 20 horses that will compete in the \$2 million-guaranteed Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (GI) at Churchill Downs on Saturday, May 5.

The Street Sense is named in honor of 2007 Kentucky Derby winner **Street Sense** who became the first horse to win the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (GI) as a 2-year-old and the Run for the Roses at age 3. He also was the first Champion Two-Year-Old Colt to win the Kentucky Derby since **Spectacular Bid** who won the Kentucky Derby in 1979. Wilkes was the chief assistant to Hall of Fame trainer **Carl Nafzger** during that run.

SPENDTHRIFT JUVENILE STALLION STAKES QUOTES

Ricardo Santana Jr., jockey of FIGHT ON (winner): "I have to thank Steve (Asmussen) and Mr. (B. Wayne) Hughes for letting me ride this horse. We got a perfect trip today and when the horses got to him in deep stretch he fought hard to get the win."

Steve Asmussen, trainer of FIGHT ON (winner): "We always appreciate Mr. (B. Wayne) Hughes for letting us train colts like this. He's improved in every start and got a great trip today."

B. Wayne Hughes, owner of FIGHT ON (winner): "We are very surprised we won this race but we have a great trainer and jockey that helped us get there today. The concept for these races incentivizes the breeders and people who buy our horses, and we are very happy to be able to win this."

Jose Valdivia Jr., jockey on CAPTIVATING DREAM (runner-up): "He ran huge. I'll tell you one thing: I've never been able to ride him on the grass, but I do believe he is a grass horse. He's such a good horse that he runs on any surface you put him on. I thought he ran well on the slop at Keeneland, and I thought he ran even better here. But he just could not grab a good hold (on the dirt). Running down the lane here I thought every other stride he was stumbling, and even with that he was still trying to run and get the leader. But he was coming and the 1-horse was running with me and kept pushing him, but I thought the wire was coming up too soon."

RAGS TO RICHES STAKES QUOTES

Florent Geroux, jockey of MONOMOY GIRL (winner): "I was a little surprised how relaxed she was on the lead. She was flipping her ears back and forth on the backstretch. She's been training well over the dirt surface in the mornings and she proved she liked it in the afternoon."

Brad Cox, trainer of MONOMOY GIRL (winner): "It was a really big effort. She had two really nice breezes coming into the race. Originally she really struggled out of the gate in training and that's why we debuted her going long on the turf. She proved she handled the dirt today and Florent (Geroux) did a good job of getting to the front. The (Nov. 25) Golden Rod is the next logical spot for her as long as she comes out of the race in good shape."

SPENDTHRIFT JUVENILE FILLY STALLION STAKES QUOTES

Corey Lanerie, jockey of SULTRY (winner): "Her running style is to come from behind so even though speed has been holding today we didn't want to change too much except get her into the race earlier. We had a perfect trip up the rail and with the early fractions the field came back to us a bit which helped. Eddie (Kenneally) and his team have done a phenomenal job training her and she was ready to run today."

Eddie Kenneally, trainer of SULTRY (winner): "When we ran in the Pocahontas she was well back of a slow pace. To close in a sprint race like this you have to get a perfect trip and Corey (Lanerie) gave her a great ride. We could eventually try her around two turns again this fall but we'll see how she comes out of things."

STREET SENSE STAKES QUOTES

Chris Landeros, jockey of GOTTA GO (winner): "I'm so proud of his effort today. He's like a big kid and is still learning. When we were closing late in the stretch he saw the horse to the inside and really stuck his head down to get the win. The future seems very bright for him to be able to show that ability against a field like this."

Ian Wilkes, trainer of GOTTA GO (winner): "He beat a solid field of horses today. The runner-up (**Lone Sailor**) just ran third in the Breeders' Futurity (Grade I) so he had a lot more experience than we did. This horse is coming along slowly in his training and still learning a lot. If he comes out of this race fine we'll look to the (Nov. 25) Kentucky Jockey Club for his next start."

Tom Amoss, trainer of LONE SAILOR (runner-up): "He was in a battle today and at times had to wait for room. There were just a lot of things that contributed to winning or losing the race. But I was really pleased that when they're in those kinds of races a lot of young horses will give up, and he didn't do that. He fought and he ran to the wire. We're looking forward to running two turns. Quite honestly, I never make too many plans right after a race, but I'm sure the owners and I, when we see if he comes out of the race in good shape, we'll want to try the (Kentucky) Jockey Club if he does."